manufacture are classified. Simple packing or packaging operations, operations to ensure preservation of products, breaking up and assembly of consignments, affixing of labels etc., will not be considered as sufficient processing to confer the status of originating products, under the Rules of Origin.

The Agreement provides for a safeguard by way of provisional suspension of tariff concessions, in case there is a sharp increase in imports so as to cause injury to domestic industry. The contracting parties are also free to apply their domestic legislation to restrict imports, in cases where prices are influenced by unfair trade practices like subsidies or dumping.

**Infiltration from Bangladesh**

995. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have looked into infiltration and illegal migration from Bangladesh into India;

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with the concerned authorities of the Bangladesh Government;

(c) whether Government are planning to open Dhaka-Calcutta bus route; and

(d) whether Government have taken precautions to avoid infiltration and illegal migration on opening of the bus route?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India has often conveyed its concern about the seriousness and magnitude of the problem of infiltration and illegal migration to the Government of Bangladesh at the political and diplomatic levels. The Government of Bangladesh has conveyed the assurance that measures will be taken to strengthen security at the border to prevent illegal border crossing.

(c) and (d) An agreement was initialled on 17 February 1999 with the Government of Bangladesh to start a bus service between Calcutta and Dhaka. Necessary logistical, security and administrative measures are being put in place in consultation with the State Government in West Bengal and the concerned Departments of the Government of India.

**Separate Passport for Children**

996. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any changes in rules to stipulate that the children must obtain separate passports;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that the new rule create serious problem of obtaining visa for children to accompany the parent; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to relax the amended rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since the endorsement of the child's name on the parent's passport was done without any photograph of the child, it was open to extensive misuse. Besides, a number of countries have stopped issuing visas to children whose names are endorsed on their parent's passports.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No such problem in obtaining visa for children due to their having separate passports has come to the notice of the Government.

**Threats to Disrupt PM's Pak Trip**

997. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governemt's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pak hardliners vow to disrupt PM's trip" as reported in the *Statesman* dated 15th February, 1999;

(b) if so, whether the hardliners in Pakistan have decided not to permit Prime Minister of India to visit Lahore; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government on such threat posed by hardliners in Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government are aware that Pakistani extremist groups had adopted a negative attitude towards Prime Minister's visit to Lahore. Government hold that, contrary to the sentiments expressed and actions taken by these groups, the peoples of India and Pakistan desire the establishment of a relationship of peace, friendship and co-operation between the two countries. Government expect that the Prime Minister's historic initiative will mark a new chapter in our bilateral ties.

**PM's Visit to Jamaica, Morocco and Trinidad and Tobago**

998. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister recently visited Jamaica, Morocco, Trinidad & Tobago and held talks with heads and leaders of those countries;

(b) if so, what are the details of his talks and outcome thereof; and

(c) whether any MoUs were signed between India and above mentioned countries, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister Visited Trinidad & Tabago from February 8-9, 1999; Jamaica from February 9-12, 1999; and Morocco from February 13-14, 1999.

(b) and (c) *Trinidad and Tobago*

During his visit to Trinidad & Tobago, the Prime Minister held detailed discussions with President Arthur N R Robinson and Prime Minister Basdeo Pandey. Among the issues discussed were economic and technical cooperation in wide range of areas and strengthening of the close cultural links between the two countries. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Low Cost Housing Support Centre in Port of Spain and laid the foundation stone of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation. The Institute is intended as a Centre for teaching of Indian dance, music and the Hindi language. A Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement was signed to provide a fresh impetus to the flow of Investment, technology, trade and services between the two countries. A Memorandum of Understanding on Low Cost Housing was signed.

*Jamaica*

The Prime Minister's visit to Jamaica was in the context of the Ninth G-15 Summit held at Montego Bay, Jamaica from 10-12 February 1999. The Summit deliberated extensively on issues of concern to developing countries. These included discussions on the current international economic situation, reaffirmation of the importance of a transparent, fair and equitable rules-based multilateral trading system under the WTO, reform of the international financial architecture, South-South and intra G-15 cooperation, and the prospects of undertaking a G-15—G-8 dialogue in these matters. All such priorities were duly reflected in the Joint Communique issued at the end of the Ninth Summit. In order to be able to cope with the challenges posed by globalisation and economic liberalisation and the ongoing financial crisis, members agreed to promote convergence of viewpoints on these issues. They also called for enhanced regional and international cooperation to combat the menace of terrorism. India's offer to host a G-15 meeting at an appropriate level in preparation for the third WTO Ministerial Meeting was welcomed by the participants. They also endorsed India's proposal for a 'strategic sectors' for South-South cooperation focussing on core areas like